

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath : I beg leave to move that the business of the House be now adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the distressing situation of the ryots of Nanjinad and Edanad caused by the failure of the Kodayar Reservoir at a critical period when irrigation facilities for the next Kanni crop were most needed in that area."

Sir, every one of the members, on this side as well as in the Government Benches, will realise, I hope, that, although this question affects only one part of the State, it is so important that, if not looked into immediately, may result in very great suffering to the cultivators and loss to the Government in as much as a large number of hardworking ryots will be devoid of their means of livelihood and the Government a considerable portion of their revenue.

Sir, I shall first of all picture before the House the sad and pitiable plight of the ryots of Nanjinad and Edanad which commenced in 1104 and had been continuing with greater intensity ever since. We had from 1103 to feel slowly then the effect of the economic depression. It was keenly felt by the public at large and by the ryots in particular. Sir, nature also has been cruel to the ryots because in 1104 there was a draught and consequent failure of the Kodayar Reservoir. The agriculturists were hoping from one crop to another to get something in excess in order that their longstanding debts may be as far as possible cleared. But Sir, every crop has been except on a very few occasions failing and as such not only have they been rendered incapable of remitting their taxes in time but they have also been put to the direst necessity of not even being able to live peacefully and without anxiety. Sir, I may here mention an instance of the sad plight of a big landholder. When I was touring with some friends for collecting signatures of four of the biggest landholders in every taluk in order to move the government to take steps for the relief of agricultural indebtedness. We went to Thovala to meet one of the biggest landholders there. But we could not find him in his house. My Honourable friend Mr. Arumukhom Pillai, will remember that this gentleman who is here now, who was paying a tax of more than Rs. 500 per annum was hiding in his house just to escape from a civil warrant. I only mention this instance to show that as a result of this economic depression even the biggest landholders have been in trouble and now as their ill-fate would have it nature itself has been cruel and has served to augment their suffering. Now Sir, coming to the Kodayar Project it has failed not only in 1110 but in 1112 also and has made them utterly incapable of raising even the barest means for their subsistence not to say of their inability to pay land tax.

Now I will compare the draught and failure of Kodayar a couple of years back with that of the current year. One important difference that we notice is that just before the cultivation season began in 1110; the cultivators as well as the irrigation branch of the Public Works Department knew that there was going to be a scarcity of rain. Because as soon as and even just before the Kumbhom crop season, there was only very scanty water in the Kodayar reservoir as the figures will show. On the 8th of Dhanu *i. e.* just before the Kumbhom harvest, the water level was only at 5.30 ft. Just after the Kumbhom crop it fell down to 1.85 ft. That means the Government as well as the ryots could rightly anticipate failure of Kumbhom crop and as well as a gloomy prospect of any irrigation facility for the next crop. I mean the Kanni crop of 1111. This scarcity of water continued persistently, came down to 1.75 in 24-7-10 after which there was no need for irrigating fields for the harvest season was over. The water level continued in the same way and the figure even went further down. As regards the Kanni crop, generally the agricultural period in the season when the sheaths and ears of corn come out is in Edavom, so from the middle of Edavom the ryots are in all anxiety for water, for scarcity of water would mean great loss of even the expenses of cultivation. On the 19th Edavom 1110 the figure of the water in the reservoir stood at 3.25 ft. and this went further down on 1st Mithunom to 1.5. So the Government as well as the ryots knew of the condition sufficiently early and at the various turns. The Government was well-advised in having published press communiques in time as regards the two crops. One was issued in Dhanu and the other in Edavom so that the ryots could very well foresee the situation. The ryots and the whole public considered that it was a warning from Government and they abstained from even cultivating their lands, other than the small extent mainly ayacut lands which had begun to be cultivated. As a result, the knowledge of the probability of the scarcity of water and warning of the Government lands which were actually under cultivation for the Kanni crop of 1111 were much less in extent than that for the coming Kanni season, because in addition to the small seasonal rains that they have been having from this Kumbhom the Kodayar reservoir contained on 21st Kumbhom, 19.6 ft. of water and there was a legitimate reason for the ryots to expect that there will be rains coming in the usual Edavappathi season. With this end in view they began to cultivate all the available extent of land at their disposal. But although in Edavom this year as shown by the figure on 8th day, the water stood at 21.05 ft. It suddenly and unexpectedly went down to 6.45 on 3rd Mithunam. On 11th Edavom it went to the minimum point in the season namely 3.4 ft. Sir, as soon as it reached that point and there was no prospect of

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rain, there was great agitation and heart-burning among the people and measures were adopted by the public to bring it to the notice of Government. You will remember Sir, that I wrote to you a letter in which I stated the condition of ryots and suggested means for augmenting the supply in the Kodayar reservoir and if found necessary for even adopting measures to penalise, conversion of any further extent of garden land into paddy fields. Timely Restriction of cultivation by the use of Kodayar water may also be adopted as is done in British India. With regard to the area within the province of perennial reservoirs as Periyar in British India, Sir, for the first crop a certain extent is allowed to be watered from the Periyar Reservoir and if any further area is cultivated it is penalised with an assessment of Rs 150 per acre. Other remedial measures may be dealt with later on. Now, what actually happened this time was this. While the extent of land under cultivation was much less than 30,000 acres in 1110, this time it went up to 36,000 acres even in the early period of cultivation. Seeing the seriousness of the situation the authorities of the Government called together on the 11th Edavom 1112, a meeting of the leading landholders of Nanjinad and Edanad which was presided over by the Division Peishkars. Ever since that date the extent of cultivated area increased by 4,573 acres according to the latest figure available then the total extent going up nearly to 40,000 acres for as soon as the little water that was available in the Kodayar Reservoir was given out to the lands which were actually cultivated and which could not be neglected, the neighbouring land holders made use of the occasion and even went to the extent of stealing the water which was intended for the neighbouring lands and attempting with risk whether they could get something out of their lands also if providence favours them with rain. If rains had not fallen fortunately and in time though a little late, the whole extent of land which had been cultivated early as well as lately would have dried up and devastated. But now the rains have to some extent helped the cultivators. But even then more than ten per cent of the cultivated area I come to understand, are to be given karivu remission because they do not give any yield. Now what is the loss to Government? The Kodayar project area cultivates nearly 56,000 acres of land at present comprising of 30,000 acres of Ayacut and 26 acres of converted lands. Sir, when the Kodayar project was conceived and it was finished Government immediately undertook to see that all the available lands were converted for paddy cultivation and they even appointed a special officer Mr. R. Mahadeva Iyer. Along with that, they did an unwise act. That is, they directed this officer to see that all the supplementing

reservoirs were auctioned away and they continued this policy till 1926. In this, they committed a big folly. It is true that thereby they earned nearly Rs. 7 lakhs. But that proved to be the policy of killing the goose that lay the golden eggs. For gaining Rs. 7 lakhs they left the cultivators to dogs and in this very sorrowful plight they risked large and successive remissions of land revenue. Nearly 18,427 acres are now left fallow in Thovala and Agastiswaram taluks and these lands are mainly garden lands which have been converted bringing by way of watercess alone nearly 3 lakhs of rupees to the State coffers in addition to garden assessment. The government has also to lose land tax of Ayacut lands which will claim for karivu remission.

President : Order, order. The honourable member will note that under the rules the maximum time allowed for a speech is 15 minutes. The honourable member has 4 minutes more.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath : That being so, I will only just give out some suggestions by which these occurrences may be as far as possible avoided. Sir, it was in 1907 that the Kodayar project was completed and the Government adopted then the policy of auctioning away tank beds and at the same time registering away poramboke lands nearby. Then there was the Forest Department which has been indiscriminately leasing out coupes under the coupe system as a result of which trees were felled and removed, thereby causing not only disafforestation but also silting up in the reservoir as well as in the channels. Streamlets and *cals* were formed also as a result of the timbers being removed by elephants. Much debate there was in the other House about the advisability or otherwise of disafforestation. Sir, the theory of a forest not affecting rainfall has been exploded and not the opposite theory. That is my view. The British Government is very keen on the preservation and conservation of the Periyar Catchment Area. They do not allow even a leaf to be touched by anyone and as a result we find that there are many wild beasts in that area. When we turn to the Kodayar area we find that anybody can enter the inmost recesses of the forest and can even make his dwelling there very comfortably. Sir, this policy ought not to have been countenanced by the Government from the very beginning.

Then, there is the erosion as a result of which not only the bed of the reservoir but also the channel beds and tank beds were silted up. In this connection and in speaking generally of the condition of tanks I am reminded of what happened in the Nagercoil High School, a few months back. The Headmaster asked the students to write an essay on the use of tanks. One of them described the tanks in Nanni-nad as Goldsmith described the village schoolmaster's table as a bed by night and a chest of drawers all the day. The boy wrote that the

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tanks in the South that he had seen were playgrounds in summer and a small watery place where they could play with paper boats during the rainy season. That is how these tanks are looked into by the Government. I shall now mention about the effect of rainfall as far as the Kodayar Catchment Area is concerned. In 1907 when the project was completed there was a rainfall of 166 inches as is shown by memorial stone.

But now, it has become less than one-half, for it has come down to nearly 80 inches. This is due to the havoc done to the forests. I shall suggest one or two means of preventing this and then close my speech. There has been an agitation for the enactment of a Minor Irrigation Regulation. The Government moved in the matter and published a draft bill. I do not know what has happened to that. The recommendations of the Minor Irrigation Committee was for the enactment of such a law, including among other provisions that of investing the P. W. D., with power to penalise encroachments on tank beds and other irrigational sources. Every means must be adopted to help towards the success of the Kodayar Project. By diverting the tributaries in the sources the water of the reservoir may be augmented. The right-bank channel should be extended by diverting the waters of Chittar No. 1 and 2 so that the people of Vilavancode and Neyyattinkara also may benefit by facilities for Irrigation. Measures should also be adopted to prevent overflowing or make use of water that overflows instead of it being allowed to run to waste. Water was overflowing the Pachipra dam for many days in Kanni 1112, an year when we even are having great scarcity of water. If a dam is put up at a place called Kakkachal or Vananpara, the water could be diverted to the channel lower down the main channel for at that place the channel is on a higher level.

There was a dam there as early as 1801 but the two ends of it were cut down by some people for fear of flood in the neighbourhood. This may be restored. With these words, I commend the motion to the acceptance of the House and request the House, both officials and non-officials, to pay their due consideration to this problem and see that the maximum endeavour is made for alleviating the suffering and distress of the ryots.

Mr. V. S. Arumukhom Pillai: Sir, I support the motion. The late Mr. Watts, in the course of his speech referring to Nanjinad, said that the people of Nanjinad are perfectly indifferent whether Rama or Ravana was the King so long as they have sufficient water in the Kodayar Reservoir. That is perfectly true. This indicates that water is the life-blood of the people of Nanjinad. The

people never take part in any agitation. But when they find that there is no water for irrigation they become restless and raise a hue and cry. For, if in one crop they are not able to get paddy, they will have to starve. That is why I said that water has got a peculiar significance so far as Nanjinad is concerned. My friend Mr. Elenkath referred to a respectable citizen—he did not mention correctly the amount of tax he was paying, he was paying Rs. 600—but that gentleman could not get out for fear of civil warrant. Anyone who is closely acquainted with Nanjinad will really feel pity for these people. There are several reasons for their pitiable condition. As I said this morning the heavy and excessive taxation is the main reason. The people of Nanjinad are taxed beyond their capacity. Before 1104 they were getting something. But their savings consisted of the jewels worn by their women. Since 1104, they have been disposing of these jewels in order to pay the tax and to meet other obligatory payments. Now, they are absolutely penniless. This state of affairs has been brought about not only by the excessive taxation but also by several other circumstances. I do not want to take up the time of the House by repeating all that my friend has said. I do not want also to repeat what happened in regard to the Kanni crop of 1111 as I have sufficiently dealt with it already. With regard to Kanni crop of 1111 after some attempts we were able to get 50 per cent remission. We are grateful for that. But in view of the fact that the people of Nanjinad have been paying excessive tax, in view of their miserable condition and in view of the unforeseen circumstances responsible for their insufferable damage, they ought to have been given full remission. Anyhow it is a thing of the past and I do not want to dwell upon it now.

In discussing this adjournment motion we have to refer to the question of remission. My learned friend has not referred to that aspect of the matter. On the last occasion I stated the several circumstances that had brought about the miserable condition of the ryots. From the year 1110, nature herself was against the ryots. In the year 1110, though there was no *tarissu*, all the crops failed because of the failure of the Kodayar. In 1111 the people became wise by prior experience and did not raise cultivation. A Press Communique was issued then. The Government said that the ryots of Nanjinad gained immensely because of the warning contained in the Communique and on that ground refused remission. That was the mentality of Government at that time. Anyhow we are thankful for the 50 per cent remission. I appeal to the Government in view of our bitter experience, to make provision for remission. The absence of any provision was due to the fact that Engineers had high hopes of the Kodayar Project. I am not

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an expert, and I do not want to criticise the opinion of the Engineers who constructed the reservoir. They thought that the reservoir would be a complete insurance against drought. That was the reason for prohibiting the grant of remission for *tarissu*. If the Government are really sympathetic to the interests of the ryots, they would not have cared for the rule but would have granted remission in spite of the rule. If the word 'remission' tied their hands, Government could have easily got over the difficulty and awarded compensation if they really had the mind to relieve them. The rule would not have stood in the way. In view of our bitter experience, in view of the precarious supply of Kodayar water, and the utter futility of the reservoir, I submit that the rules should be revised. Sir, it was this provision that stood in the way of granting remission. This provision, I may submit, if I may be excused for using the term, is an uncivilised piece of legislation, if it is unable to protect the legitimate interests of the ryots. For, it is not only his right to get remission but it is also his right not to cultivate his land. It is not a civilised piece of legislation and it must be erased.

My learned friend referred to irrigation facilities. During the *tarissu* of 1110 and 1111, I sent up a series of recommendations to the Chief Engineer and if I remember right he told me that he recommended those things to the Government. I think the Government were not able to grant us what we required for want of fund. Now again the agricultural Board has sent up similar resolutions and I request the Chief Engineer to give sympathetic consideration to those resolutions and try to avert a similar miserable situation in future.

My learned friend referred to the necessity for an additional reservoir. He referred to Chittar Nos. 1 and 2. I submit that these will in no way be useful to the ryots of Nanjinad. Perumjani Reservoir alone may be beneficial so far as Nanjinad is concerned.

There is one other point. Huge sums of money have been spent on the right bank channel. It is useful to the ryots of Vilavankod. It is ruinous to the agriculturists of Nanjinad and quite unsafe to the project itself. With these words I support the motion.

Mr. James Fletcher (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod cum Neyyattinkara*): I support the motion and state my reasons for that. The distressing situation in Nanjinad cannot be denied. There has been a low and inadequate rainfall for a number of years. The Nanjinad people have been depending

on rain for their paddy cultivation. The cultivation requires a large quantity of water throughout the year. With a view to ensure an everlasting water supply, the Government constructed a dam at Pachipparai at a great cost. They were so sure of an unfailing supply of water from that dam. So, they sold away smaller reservoirs, I mean tanks, in other localities which were considered as a reserve to collect the surface water that is supplied by rain. Those tanks were available in earlier days. They served the purpose of Pachippara Reservoir in the matter of distribution of water. Necessary water was reserved in those tanks. They were distributing the rain water collected by them to their surroundings in small quantities according to the needs of the paddy fields. As a matter of fact, if those small reservoirs, *viz.*, tanks, had been kept up, shortage for water now experienced would not have occurred. Whenever there is not sufficient water in the smaller reservoirs, the land owners could claim water from the bigger reservoir and get the necessary water for their cultivation. But now, every ryot has to apply to the big reservoir and that is not capable of supplying the necessary water. This has been the experience for the last few years and ryots have found it impossible to carry on their paddy cultivation. Added to this, there is another difficulty that has come in, *viz.*, the low price of paddy. The paddy that was selling at Rs. 10 per Kottah, has now fallen to Rs. 4 or Rs. 5. per kottah. It has almost come to a price which is below the cost of production. Again, there is paddy coming from outside to compete with local paddy, so much so, the so called land owner has become very poor in all respects. Over and above that, there was a serious break in the monsoons. There was no rain at all for a long period. The fodder was destroyed. The cattle became unfit for cultivation. In that way also, the cultivator became poorer. He had not much reserve at his disposal. Of course, as my friend Mr. Arumugham Pillai has already said, some of these rich land owners had been keeping their reserves in gold ornaments on their women-folk. They have all been sold, so much so, all their reserves have become exhausted. Now their position is distressing. What can be done in this situation? What are the possibilities of helping the ryots? If it goes on for some time more, there will be unbearable distress. To relieve that condition, I would suggest that in the place of tanks which have been taken away, new ones must be established. Tanks which have not been sold and in a neglected condition, may be improved, so that in every locality there may be a reservoir for water, to be utilised for the initial preparation of the lands for cultivation. Secondly, I would suggest that a special irrigation officer be appointed to take necessary steps and find out the ways and means

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to improve the possibility of supplying water to the paddy fields in Nanjinad. Thirdly, I would also suggest that the forest department be asked not to interfere in the catchment area where there should be a large number of forest trees, which would stop the clouds and bring more rain in South Travancore. I may also inform the House that wherever there are thick forests, there will be a chance of attracting rain clouds. The rain water would not flow away suddenly on account of existence of trees, but will flow in small quantities. Therefore, the forest areas should be very carefully conserved.

The last and the most important point is, that, under the present rules, a cultivator is not entitled to claim remission of tax when a piece of field is left as tharisu. The owner has to beg for remission of tax. I pray that the rules be so framed that if the land is allowed to lie fallow, on account of failure of monsoon no tax should be collected from him. For those lands left uncultivated due to the failure of monsoons and due to want of water in the reservoir. I suggest that remission of tax be given by Government as early as possible.

Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib : Sir, a Chinese Philosopher once remarked that the well-being of a people is like a tree, agriculture is its root, commerce and manufacture its branches and life, and when the root is injured, the leaves fall, branches break away and the tree dies. This pre-eminently applies to a country like ours, which is predominantly an agricultural country. It is admitted on all hand, Sir, that the agriculturists form the backbone of the entire population, and as such, the contentment of a peasant is the well-being of the whole State.

Adjournment motions of this character form an annual feature of the Budget Session of the Legislature. The geological survey has shown that the soil in Nanjanad has almost exhausted and that unless there is the application of chemical or scientific manure, the maximum yield cannot be obtained. Also, there are complaints that the ryots do not get green leaf manure. They cannot have access to forests on account of the various restrictions placed in regard to this. Again, the phenomenal fall in the price of agricultural products is a factor to be reckoned with. There is absolutely no margin of profit for the average peasant. To add to this, cost of cultivation is rather heavy. You, Sir, have also admitted that taxation in Nanjanad is inequitable and requires revision. Under these circumstances, I need hardly say that the condition of an average peasant in South Travancore is very pitiable.

If there are defects in the Remission Rules, it is high time that Government should revise them, and in cases where there have been failure of crops on account of reasons beyond the control of the peasant, adequate relief measures must be taken up by Government. Certainly, the Government must come to the rescue of the peasant, because, it is in the contentment of a peasant that the whole prosperity of the country depends. With these observations, I support the motion.

Mr. K. George : Sir, the condition of the agriculturists in Nanjinad on account of the failure of the monsoons this year is a matter which has been causing anxiety to Government. During the past two or three years, the seasons in Nanjinad have not been altogether favourable. This year, the Left Bank Channel was opened for irrigation on the 20th May 1937, when the water level in the reservoir was 21.2 ft. Then, gradually, owing to the failure of the rains, the level in the reservoir sank and the weekly reports indicated that there was room to fear, a serious scarcity of water in the reservoir. From the reports of local officers, it is seen that, at present there is an extent of about 38,000 acres under cultivation as against 56092 acres of paddy land commended by the Kodayar Project. I do not now vouch for the exactness of the figure. From the reports of the Division Peishkar, Trivandrum, I find, that, in Tovala the extend of *Karivu* land is 441.18 acres, partly in the commanded areas and partly in the uncommanded areas, and under *Tharistu* 2740.68 acres, partly in the commanded, and partly in the uncommanded areas. In Agastiswaram, the extend of the lands on which crops said to have failed on account of *Karivu* is 1398.63 acres and those in fallow land is 11.605 acres. Now, Sir, the situation disclosed by these figures.....

Mr. K. R. Elenkath : What about Kalkulam ?

Mr. K. George : The extent of land where crops have been affected under *Karivu* is about 6408 acres and those under *Tharistu* is 3501.8 acres. These figures are disquieting. Of course, they mean that the ryots in those tracts have been unable to cultivate a large extent of area of land on account of scarcity of water in the Pachipara dam. Also, it means that in places where cultivation has been attempted, the failure of the rains and the scarcity of water in the dam have affected the crops.

Now, the first point to be considered is what is Government going to do with regard to these lands which are either left uncultivated or which have been cultivated but whose crops have failed. In regard to both these there are certain provisions in the rules. As regards *Karivu* there is provision for remission in the taluks of Tovala, Agasteeswaram, Kalkulam and most of the taluks of the

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Trivandrum Division, and the ryots effected by karivu are entitled under the karivu rules to claim remission. They have to submit applications within certain specified dates and those applications will be considered and necessary inspections will be made by the taluk officers and the ryots will get the remission as a matter of right. In regard to fallow remission, the rules at present allow such remissions only in certain pakuthies of the Tovala and Agastaswaram taluks. Outside these specified areas no fallow remission is now provided for. Obviously, this is due to the expectation that there will be ample water in the Kodayar channel to satisfy the needs of the ryots in these areas.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : Is there not a provision that if the Kodayar reservoir is not sufficient to supply the necessary water, water cess may be remitted ?

Mr. K. George : I am unable to say on the spur of the moment.

As I said, the restriction of the fallow remission in certain pakuthies in Tovala and Agasteswaram taluks was evidently based on the assumption that the supply of water will not fail. Last year and this year there has been a shortage of water due to scarcity of rainfall. But that cannot be considered as to be the normal condition in these taluks; for there were years even in recent times when the reservoir has overflowed. So that it cannot be safe to say that the reservoir is a failure. These years are special years where the rainfall has been very scanty, and in these years—last year for instance there was scarcity of water for the kanni crop of 1111 and the Government have been pleased to grant remission of water tax in the case of the lands left fallow. So, what I wish to mention to the House is that there is no material or substantial reason for making general rules for the grant of fallow remission in south Travancore more than what the rules at present contemplate. But in years like the present when there has been drought and where lands have been left fallow on that account, Government will be prepared to consider the question of remission sympathetically. In regard to lands affected by karivus, the present rules make ample provision for remission. But so far as fallow remission is concerned I would suggest that the Government may be left to deal with the matter according to the circumstances of each year.

In the course of the discussion one or two suggestions were made about improving the capacity of the reservoir. I must confess that they are matters with which the Chief Engineer would be in a better position to give an answer. But I understand from him

that there are proposals under consideration for increasing the present storage capacity of Kodayar reservoir by 25 per cent. As regards the question of wastage of water, I am told, that action is being taken in making the dam leakage-proof. Government will consider these matters carefully.

The question was raised about the removal of encroachments. If encroachments are found in any part of the State the Land Revenue officers are bound to take action in regard to them under the provisions of the Land Conservancy Regulations. They have got powers in dealing with encroachments on porambokes and Government's Policy is to conserve all tank porambokes and to evict all encroachers on such porambokes summarily.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath : In disposing of the motion, I have to make a few observations in order to urge upon the Government that they should immediately take some steps calculated to minimise the grievance of the ryots in the Kodayar Project area. First with regard to the remission of tax. The Land Revenue Commissioner himself has admitted that it was on the expectation that the Kodayar Project will never fail that no provision was made for the tharisu remission. A few years ago I moved a token motion in the Assembly to the effect that Government may take early steps to revise the land remission rules in order that the remission may be claimable by ryots if there is a failure of crops by reasons beyond their control. That motion was passed by an overwhelming majority. The Commissioner was asked to recommend the necessary amendments in the Rules. We do not know what has become of the recommendations he has submitted before the Government. I urge upon the Government to see that the rules are so framed that the ryots can claim a remission when there is failure of crops due to causes beyond their control under which tharisu or fallow remission will fall on account of the scarcity of water. The Commissioner said that the Government can even otherwise do it. I am fully aware of that. My point is that the ryot should not be made to depend entirely on the grace of the Government. He must have a sense of security and safety as regards his position. Otherwise what is the use of having provision for karivu remissions? The Government can even if there is no provision, grant karivu remission after due investigations. My point is just as there is provision in the rules for karivu remission, there should be provision for the tharisu remission also.

One thing about inspection also. As it is, it is the Proverthi-cars who go to the fields and see whether the owner thereof can claim remission, for the Tahsildar could not possibly inspect all the fields. The authorities who are responsible for the distribution of the Kodayar water are the P. W. D. authorities.

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They know each field which has not been cultivated to which water has or has not been supplied. Government will be well advised if they arrange that in future these inspections shall be held jointly by the Revenue and P. W. D. authorities. Another factor to which Government give due consideration is that there are now no adequate supervising authority as regards the Kodayar Project area. There is one Division Officer and one sub-division officer. But they are not entirely in charge of irrigation works and much of their time is consumed in looking after works connected with communications, buildings etc., When the Kodayar Project was completed and given operation to, there was a separate irrigation division to look after the distribution of water with two sub-divisions. It was abolished subsequently. That is one of the reasons why the Kodayar Project has not been properly looked after. My submission is that a full time Division Officer with adequate staff should be appointed and put in charge solely of the Kodayar Project work, so that even in the matter of the distribution of water they must have close attention besides devoting timely attention to works of repairs, improvements and the means of irrigation etc., of the project area. A joint inspection of the Land Revenue authorities and the P. W. authorities, as I said before, will help to investigate and recommend more equitable remissions and therefore I would suggest that these things should receive the due consideration of the House and the Government. On that hope and in view of the sympathetic answer given by the Government member, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

President : The House will now proceed with the voting of Demands.

DEMAND III—(contd.)

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : There is no civilized country in the world which does not think of a reorganisation of the educational system not only of Colleges, not only of Universities but of secondary and primary education. Travancore Education Department still works on an educational code which was framed at the time of Dr. Mitchell, I believe, 27 years ago. I therefore feel that it is high time that the Educational Code should be revised.

I want to deal this afternoon on one aspect of the Educational Code where it relates to grant-in aid. A few figures which I give, I hope, will bring home to this House how unjust the distribution of money has been. As regards secondary education there are 42 Government English Schools and 240 aided schools. Government spends Rs. 3,52,934 on Government English Schools and on 240 aided English schools it spends in the form of grant Rs. 42,076.